[7th February 1924

*A.*—(*a*) In 1919 the Board of Revenue recommended that, with a view to give relief to the Tahsildar of Divi, 20 villages should be taken away from his jurisdiction and that 15 of them should be included in the proposed Pamarru taluk and 5 in the Bandar taluk. No further proposals for the redistribution of villages in the Divi taluk have been submitted to Government. The proposal referred to above was embodied in the Press Communiqué, dated 3rd March 1920, on which the criticism of the public was invited.

(*b*) The proposal is that the taluks of Pamarru and Gannavaram and the independent Deputy Tahsildar's division of Nuzvid should be formed into a division with headquarters at Nuzvid. It has been included in the Press Communiqué, dated 6th October 1923, which was published for public criticism. Criticisms received will be considered by Government before orders are passed on the proposals for the bifurcation of the district.

(*c*) Yes ; about the year 1891.

(*d*) The condition of the original survey was found to be very unsatisfactory ; the cost of the present survey will be about Rs. 30,000 and will be fully borne by the Government.

## Depressed classes.

*Land assigned to the depressed classes in the Kistna district.*

203 *Q.*—Mr. P. Peddiraju : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to lay on the table—

(1) a talukwar statement relating to the Kistna district showing the extent of land assigned for cultivation to the members of the Adi-Andhra community since 1st April 1922 ; and

(2) a statement showing the extent of land thereof fit for wet cultivation ?

*A.*—(1) & (2) The Government are not in possession of the information but have called for it.

*Treatment of the depressed classes litigants in courts.*

204 *Q.*—Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether his attention has been drawn to the statements of Mr. R. Srinivasan, a Member of this Council, before the Lee Commission, viz., that depressed classes do not get a fair hearing in courts, except from European Judges, that litigants belonging to the depressed classes are not allowed to enter the courts and that they are examined while standing outside, that this practice prevails in most of the courts in the Presidency, and that only when Europeans preside over the courts they are admitted freely ;

(*b*) whether these statements are true ; and

(*c*) if so, of which courts and in what cases ?